



# INTRODUCTION TO THE NTC



**For a weather team, NTC provides a realistic environment both climatologically and geographically comparable to those found in current real-world contingencies. The scenarios developed at the NTC provides for realistic circumstances where missions can be accomplished. NTC presents an excellent opportunity for motivated weather teams to test capabilities, establish strong ties with their attached Army units, and train to exploit the weather on the battlefield.**



**As of 24 Feb**



# DEPLOYMENT TIMELINE



This is a rough guideline. Every rotation is slightly different.

- **Pre-deployment preparation/coordination at Home Station**
- **Arrival to NTC with Army customer (Usually on the weekend prior to RSOI week)**
- **RSOI 1-5 (Mon-Fri) (Reception, Staging, Onward-Movement, and Integration): Move**
  - from Ruba (Dust Bowl) to FOB, Equipment Setup, OC/T in-brief
  - **RSOI 1: Plan to have the entire team meet with the OC/Ts for the in brief (usually held at the Raven's nest, transportation will attempt to be provided)**
  - **RSOI 1-4: Receive equipment, support customer as they prepare to "deploy"**
  - **RSOI 5: "Deploy" to the training area (Usually FOB Miami or Denver, 2-3 hour convoy).**
- **TD1-14 (Training Days 1-14 , starts on a Saturday): Training, Weather OC/T Review**
- **AAR (After Actions Report): AAR with the weather OC/T (normally occurs between TD**

M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	Tu	W
RS OI 1	RS OI 2	RS OI 3	RS OI 4	RS OI 5	TD 1	TD 2	TD 3	TD 4	TD 5	TD 6	TD 7	TD 8	TD 9	TD 10	TD 11	TD 12	TD 13	TD 14	BR D 1	BR D 2	BR D 3	BR D 4	BR D 5

**NOT stop operations or**



# **ACTIONABLE ITEMS**

## **(Pre-arrival to the NTC)**



**1. Prepare a Memorandum Of Agreement (MOA) or an annex to customer's OPORD with a detailed description of weather support. You should be fully involved in the Army's planning and coordination process. Start producing this document 90-180 days in advance of deployment to the NTC. This document is the agreement from you to your customer(s) about what you will provide one another while you are both deployed. Include the type of support, communication procedures (who will provide required Communications and when?), special NTC Weather Watch, Warning, and Advisory criteria, equipment that you will bring, etc. Emphasis should be placed on how your customer will receive support beginning upon arrival at the Dust Bowl, en route to the FOB and during the exercise. In the event a weather team will not be deploying with them, coordinate how support will be provided. Also detail what should be done should the team become unable to provide support (the customer reaches back to home station or contacts the HUB).**



# **ACTIONABLE ITEMS**

## **(Pre-arrival to the NTC)**



**2. Inform the NTC OC/T (Combat Trainer) of your full travel itinerary as soon as possible. To include all of the following (if applicable):**

- Deploying Weather Team Members Rank/Name**
- Arrival & Departure Airport/Flight Information**
- Rental Car Information (FYI: Hertz is the only rental car agency located on Fort Irwin!)**
- Full contact information (Cell Phone and Email addresses) of each deploying member**
- KQ Identifier, if already setup/coordinated with AFWA**



# **ACTIONABLE ITEMS**



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**3. Complete the pre-deployment survey document (found on the NTC webpage)**

**- Email it to the OC/T NLT 30 days prior to arrival at the NTC**

**4. If you require 25 OWS (Davis Monthan AFB) tailored products (unique WWA criteria) or support, complete a SAR and also notify the NTC OC/T of your request**

**5. Setup a temporary KQ Identifier with AFWA NLT 30 days prior to arrival at the NTC (so that you are able to transmit your weather observations long-line) via a SAR or via telephone; DSN 271-1626 or (after hours) DSN: 271-2586 / Commercial (402) 294-1626/(402) 294-2586, or via email: 2SOSSYSDDATAROUTING@offutt.af.mil**

**6. Secure a DCO (Defense Connect Online) account NLT 30 days prior to arrival at the NTC.**

**7. Secure weapons for all personnel. Muzzle adapters should be brought as well.**

**8. Contact the OC/T upon arrival to NTC at DSN: 470-4363 (or**



# **RESPONSIBILITIES 25 OWS**



## **1. 25 OWS will:**

- Issues Weather Watches, Warnings, and Advisories (WWA's) for the 4 NTC weather zones (link to WWAs is on the NTC webpage)**
- Issues Weather Watches, Warnings, and Advisories (WWA's) for Barstow-Daggett (link to WWAs is on the NTC webpage)**
- Collaborate on all weather products via DCO (defense connect online) with the BLAAF (Bicycle Lake Army Airfield) Weather Flight and the deployed BWT**
- Issue a Military Operations Area Forecast (MOAF) three times a day (00L 08L and 16L)**
- The MOAF is the controlling forecast. The BLAAF Weather flight and the rotational BWT will collaborate on the MOAF (via DCO) and use it, along with**





# RESPONSIBILITIES

## BLAAF Weather Flight

**1. The BLAAF Weather Flight (Weather Team permanently assigned to Ft. Irwin) will:**

- Issues 5-Day Weather Planning Outlooks/Forecast once a day (NLT 1600L)  
(The 5-Day Outlook is posted on the Fort Irwin/NTC webpage)**
- Issues Mission Execution Forecasts (MEFs) 3 times daily**
- Provide local area (MEF) or 175-1 pilot weather briefs to NTC Flight Detachment and  
aviation assets assigned to the NTC/KDAG;  
Note: The NTC Weather Team will not be tasked to provide  
flight weather briefings to  
deployed/rotational aviation/ground units at any time!**
- Provide Division-level support to NTC personnel in the form of;  
CG updates, planning  
weather to all NTC support units, and operational weather  
updates**



# **RESPONSIBILITIES OC/T (Combat Trainers)**



**1. The OC/T coordinates and provides support to:**

- Home Station/Garrison Units**
- Rotational Weather Units**
- 52nd ID Division Tactical Operations Center (DTOC) Staff**
- Opposing Forces (OPFOR) dedicated weather support**





# **RESPONSIBILITIES**



## **OC/T (Observer Coach Trainers)**

### **2. The OC/T will:**

- Provide EXROE (Exercise Rules Of Engagement) brief to rotational BWT and ensures it is followed**
- Ensure all safety concerns are addressed. If needed, the O/CT will intervene to ensure correct weather information is relayed**
- Observe and evaluate BWT under field conditions and offer recommended improvements to BWT**
- Provide liaison support between rotational BWT, NTC Army OC/T's, and Army customers (as required)**
- Provide After Action Review (AAR) inputs**
- Attend AAR's to discuss positive and negative aspects of**



# RESPONSIBILITIES

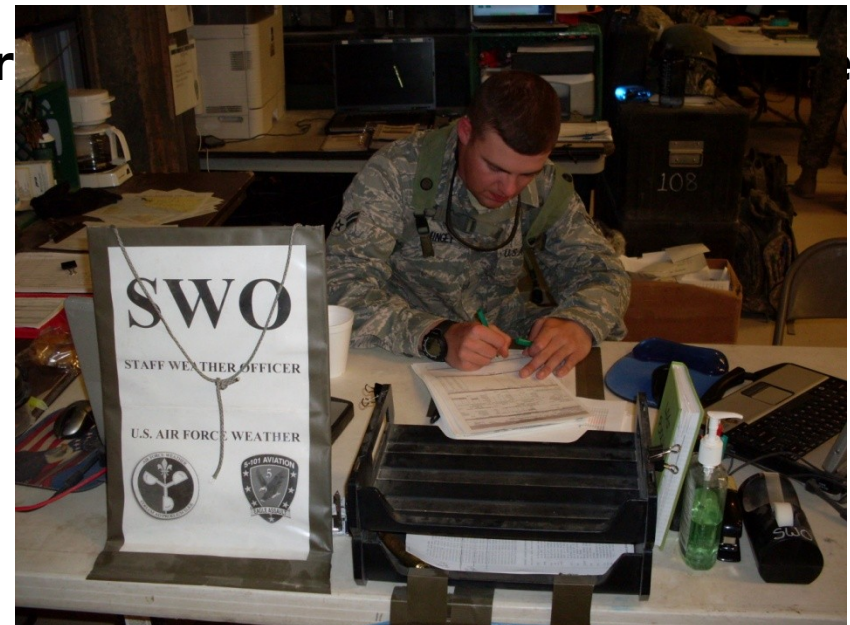
## Deploying BWT

**1. The deploying BWT staff weather officer (SWO) will:**

- Deploy in direct support of the rotational unit (or provide support from their home station)**
- Coordinate required weather support with customers, especially aviation units, before deploying to the NTC**



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# **RESPONSIBILITIES**

## **Deploying BWT**



**2. The deploying BWT staff weather officer (SWO) will:**

- Review the EXROE Brief**
- Ensure all members obtain basic field skills BEFORE deploying to the NTC**
- Ops Check all equipment before deploying to the NTC**
- Bring all required equipment, as determined by MTOE. For training purposes, it is suggested to also bring non-standard equipment to the NTC**
- Perform staff weather officer duties in the field, to include briefings**
- Take, record, and disseminate hourly weather observations**
- Produce operational forecasts (for their customers) for the particular OE**



# RESPONSIBILITIES

## Deploying BWT (Cont.)

**2. The deploying BWT staff weather officer (SWO) will:**

- Brief all deployed/rotational aircraft to include RPA's and have a plan in-place for briefing the aircraft back to their Home Station after completion of rotation**

**Note: The NTC Weather Team will not be tasked to provide flight weather briefings to deployed/rotational aviation/ground units at any time!**

- Units not deploying weather personnel to support the rotational aircraft/units must coordinate to provide reach-back support from their Home Unit**

- Coordinate Weather Watches, Warnings, and Advisories (WWA's) for their particular OE with both the 25 OWS and BLAAF Weather Flight**

- Provide weather support IAW existing regulations (including FORSCOM Regulation 350-**



# **IMPORTANT REMINDERS FOR THE Deploying BWT**

- **The NTC Weather Team/Bicycle Lake Army Airfield (BLAAF) Weather Flight does not and will not support rotational aircraft or ground units at any time! Be sure your units know this before deploying to the NTC! If a weather team does not arrive at the NTC along with the aviation and/or ground unit - they will be referred to the 25 OWS to receive necessary support (flight weather briefings, 175-1's, etc.) Rotational BWT's are responsible for informing their support units of this requirement. If a BWT will not be deploying to the NTC to support their aircraft/units, it is also a requirement for the deploying BWT to arrange for necessary support from their home station (reach-back support), if necessary.**
- **BLAAF Weather Flight (Division) / Deployed BWT (Brigade); Use the forecast funnel and be in communication with 25 OWS and BLAAF weather flight as**



# **IMPORTANT REMINDERS FOR THE Deploying BWT**

- On your 25 OWS SAR request, ensure that you request that you be added to the JET WWA notification list for the NTC; JET can notify you via phone, email, or fax (or all 3)**
- Due to the lack of robust communications on the NTC, have backup communications available. Email and cell phone communication may not be available. Have a means for contacting the 25 OWS and BLAAF weather flight. Some carriers work in many locations across the NTC but other carriers only achieve spotty reception at best.**
- Establish and maintain communication with the NTC OC/T via IP Phone, HF, cell phone, email, Iridium, chat, or any other aforementioned method available**





# **IMPORTANT REMINDERS FOR THE Deploying BWT**

**- To alleviate the problem of Operational Control (i.e. Army Commanders/Sergeant Majors tasking BWT members to perform tasks outside the realm of the BWT's responsibility, such as guard duty), it is the BWT OIC/NCOIC's responsibility (prior to deployment) to educate his/her S3/G3 and/or field Commander on what tasks the BWT will/will not perform while in the field according to doctrine and regulations. This is what the MOA should include. The purpose of this is to make sure the Army customer understands exactly what it can/cannot task the BWT to accomplish. It is especially important to educate the S3/G3 so that he/she can back up the BWT OIC/NCOIC when a field Commander/Sergeant Major persists in tasking BWT members to accomplish tasks outside of their realm of responsibility. For further information about this subject, see the Army-Air Force MOA, dated 1984, and ACCI 15-150.**





# **IMPORTANT REMINDERS FOR THE Deploying BWT**

- The deploying BWT should deploy and redeploy with their customer (aka travel with with the Army). Contact the OC/T if this is not possible. If flying in, see the following:
  - Airport Information: The nearest airports are: Ontario, CA (120 miles), Los Angeles, CA (175 miles) and Las Vegas, NV (180 miles)
  - Rental Car Information: The only rental car agency on Fort Irwin is Hertz
  - If weather teams fly to NTC, they typically fly into Las Vegas and rent a car (Hertz one way rental to Fort Irwin, CA) and then again reserve a one way Hertz rental from Fort Irwin, CA back to Las Vegas for your return trip home. It's always a good idea to reserve a rental car as much in advance as possible...they tend to go fast during rotational periods at Fort Irwin.